



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS PERSON AWARD

BOSTON -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is accepting nominations for the 2003 Massachusetts Minority Small Business Person of the Year. Nominations must be submitted to the SBA's Massachusetts District Office no later than June 20, 2003.

Nominees will be judged on the following evaluation criteria: (1) Nominee must own and operate a minority small business; (2) the firm must be in satisfactory financial condition; (3) the firm must have been in business for at least three years; (4) if the firm is a government contractor, it must have performed satisfactorily on all contracts, and have no terminations for default; (5) if nominee has an SBA loan, payment record must be satisfactory and loan must be current.

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Minority Enterprise Development Week will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., from September 28, to October 1, 2003. The local winner will be honored in Boston in October.

“Minority Enterprise Development Week is when the crucial role that minority businesses play in the economy is formally recognized,” said Elaine F. Guiney, Massachusetts SBA Director. “This week is when SBA recognizes these deserving businesses both locally and nationally.”

Contact Sandra Synnott at 617-565-8512 for an application package. Nominations must be submitted to Sandra Synnott, Acting Assistant District Director, 8a/Business Development, SBA, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222, by June 20, 2003. Any person or organization can nominate a deserving firm by following the guidelines established by SBA.

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For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or locally at 617-565-5590. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.